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USEEC USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UN, PORG

SUBJ: OVERVIEW MECHANISM: G-77 STATEMENT

1. ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77, AMBASSADOR DONALD MILLS,
JAMAICAN PERMREP TO THE UN, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
ON FEB 14 AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE UNGA COMMITTEE OF
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THE WHOLE WHICH WILL MONITOR THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE: DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES:

WE MEET TODAY FOR A VERY IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING, NAMELY,
THE SETTING UP OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, WHICH WILL BE
CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING A FOCUS FOR DIS-
CUSSIONS ON THOSE ISSUES RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE
GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY ALL COUNTRIES
AND ALL DELEGATIONS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT
COMMITTEE. THIS IS A MEASURE OF THE VITAL ROLE WHICH THIS
BODY MUST PLAY AND OF THE CRUCIAL NATURE OF THE ISSUES WITH
WHICH IT WILL DEAL.

ON THIS OCCASION I HAVE THE HONOUR TO SPEAK ON BEHALF
OF THE GROUP OF 77. WE EXPECT A GREAT DEAL OF THIS COMMITTEE.
IN CONSIDERING WHAT MACHINERY WOULD BE BEST SUITED FOR THE TASK
OF PROVIDING A GREATER FOCUS ON THE DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS
CONCERNING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, A NUMBER OF
ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES WERE EXAMINED. IT WAS EVENTUALLY
AGREED AT THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT A COMMITTEE
FULL REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL STATES WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE
BODY FOR SUCH A PURPOSE. IT IS A MATTER OF GRATIFICATION TO THE
GROUP OF 77 THAT AFTER FULL DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATIONS, THIS

DECISION WAS ARRIVED AT BY CONSENSUS.

WE SEE THIS DEVICE AS A MEANS OF REINFORCING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE PRIMARY INSTITUTION FOR DEALING WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES WHICH WE FACE. THE PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS WITH WHICH WE WILL BE DEALING AFFECT THE INTERESTS OF ALL COUNTRIES, AND IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT ALL SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY OF PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE AS EXPRESSED IN THE RESOLUTION APPROVED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS CLEAR. THE COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED TO OVERSEE AND MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED IN RESPECT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER; TO PROVIDE AN IMPETUS FOR RESOLVING DIFFICULTIES ARISING IN NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SERVE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, AS A FORUM FOR FACILITATING AGREEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION.

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TION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES; IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH ARE OF MAJOR CONCERN.

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ALTOGETHER, THIS WOULD BRING A NEW SENSE OF
DIRECTION AND COHERENCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, AND
ENABLE IT, IN OUR VIEW, TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN THE
FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT IT
IS IMPORTANT TO STRESS HERE THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT BEEN

CREATED IN A VACUUM. IT HAS NOT BEEN CREATED MERELY BECAUSE
OF A GENERAL FEELING THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO HAVE SOME
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SPECIFIC MACHINERY FOR LOOKING AT THE VERY DIFF-
ICULT PROBLEMS FACING US IN THE WORLD TODAY, IN THE ECONOMIC
SPHERE. ITS CREATION IS A DIRECT RESULT OF A SERIES OF EVENTS
AND CIRCUMSTANCES REACHING BACK OVER PAST YEARS. IT IS SPEC-
IFICALLY RELATED TO THE OUTCOME OF THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SPEC-
IAL SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT WHICH THERE EMERGED
THE CLEAR CALL BE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN THE INTEREST OF
EQUITY, AND THE BUILDING OF A REAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
ALL COUNTRIES. THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN THOSE SESSIONS
FORM THE BASIS OF THE DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE
BEEN TAKING PLACE SINCE 1974. AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION
THERE EMERGED AN IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE DIRECTION
AND MANNER AND CHARACTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH, OF
COURSE, DEEP DIFFERENCES OF PERCEPTION AND AIM REMAINED.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES AND DIS-
CUSSIONS SINCE THAT TIME, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM. THE PARIS CONFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, REPRESENTED
AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A CONCENTRATED NEGOTIATING SYSTEM
ON THE ISSUES RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.
HOWEVER, NONE OF THESE EFFORTS HAS PRODUCED SIGNIFICANT CON-
CRETE RESULTS. YET THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT IN
IDEAS AND IN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES, AND THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN THIS ARE.

IN SPITE OF THE DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF
RESULTS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE PERSISTED IN THEIR EFFORTS
AND HAVE REMAINED UNIFIED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO BRING
ABOUT THE REQUIRED CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
SYSTEM.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE WORLD HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY
SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND IT HAS BECOME MORE APPARENT
THAT THE SYSTEM IS NOT MERELY SUFFERING A TEMPORARY INDISPOS-
ITION , BUT IS AFFLICATED BY A SERIOUS ILLNESS. THERE HAVE
BEEN MANY AND VARIED PRESCRIPTIONS IN RESPECT OF THESE
PROBLEMS; BUT THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING REALIZATION, ESPEC-
IALLY WITHIN MANY OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, THAT
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WELL-BEING LIES BY WAY OF AN EFFECTIVE AND FAIR PARTNERSHIP WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN WHICH ALL MAY GAIN AND ALL MAY CONTRIBUTE. THIS FACTOR, ALONG WITH THE CONTINUED POSITIVE SUPPORT BY A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FOR THE CONCEPT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF A
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RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE, THE BASIS OF WHICH WAS LAID IN THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE AIM OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO PUT THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN A POSITION TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE VITAL ECONOMIC ISSUES FACING THE WORLD, AND THE NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IS THEREFORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THAT EXERCISE, AND CAN BE SEEN AS A LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THAT CONTEXT. THUS, THE SUBJECT OF THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERN, AND THE ISSUES WITH WHICH IT MUST SEEK TO DEAL, AND THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT MUST WORK, FORM A PART OF THE BOARD-BASED EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY, TO STRIVE FOR THE CREATION OF A VIABLE AND EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN THE INTEREST OF ALL COUNTRIES AND ALL PEOPLES.

WE SEE THE COMMITTEE, THEREFORE, AS HAVING THE

TASK OF CREATING THE CONDITIONS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO
BRING ABOUT A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF, AND AGREEMENT ON
A RANGE OF SPECIFIC ISSUES AFFECTING THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND, IN PARTICULAR, THOSE
WHICH IN OUR VIEW, REPRESENT SERIOUS OBSTACLES IN THE
WAY OF ADEQUATE PARTICIPATION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
THE COMMITTEE MUST ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER APPRECIATION
OF BROAD GLOBAL FACTORS AND CIRCUMSTANCES AND OF THE MANNER
IN WHICH THEY AFFECT THE INTERESTS OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

IN OUR MEETINGS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WE SHALL
BE CONCERNED WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS WORK SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.
AS FAR AS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK IS CONCERNED, THE
RESOLUTION CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE BUREAU SHALL BE
ELECTED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, AND IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING
OF THE GROUP OF 77 THAT IT WILL OPERATE ON A PRINCIPLE
OF ROTATION. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MATTERS IN RESPECT OF
WHICH THERE IS ROOM FOR DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION AND
IT IS THE HOPE OF THE GROUP OF 77 THAT WE WILL HAVE THE
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OPPORTUNITY, DURING THIS WEEK, OF CARRYING ON THE INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GROUPS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN UNDERWAY,

SO AS TO ALLOW US TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFICULTIES OR DIFFERENCES
IN RESPECT OF THESE MATTERS. IT IS OUR DESIRE TO ENSURE
THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IS ESTABLISHED AGAINST
THE ACKGROUND OF A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON ALL SIDES OF

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ITS FUNCTIONS AND THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WILL OPERATE.
WHILE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING,
IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT AN ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY SHOULD
PREVAIL SO THAT THE COMMITTEE CAN ADJUST ITS WORK TO MEET
VARYING CIRCUMSTANCES OVER THE PERIOD OF ITS EXISTENCE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR US TO DEVELOP SOME
IDEAS AS TO HOW THE COMMITTEE WILL DEAL WITH THE FOUR
FUNCTIONS OUTLINED IN THE RESOLUTION GOVERNING ITS
ESTABLISHMENT, AND HOW THESE WILL BE APPLIED TO THE
DIFFERENT ISSUES.

IT IS VERY MUCH THE HOPE OF THE GROUP OF 77
THAT THE STATURE OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE CLEARLY
UNDERLINED AND SHOULD BE REINFORCED BY THE MANNER IN
WHICH IT CARRIES OUT ITS WORK. IN THE FACE OF THE ISSUES
WITH WHICH WE MUST DEAL, IT WILL BE OF THE GREATEST
IMPORTANCE THAT MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENTS AND SENIOR
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE,
SHOULD ATTEND IN ORDER THAT THE NECESSARY POLITICAL
DECISIONS MAY BE TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE ISSUES BEING
DISCUSSED.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE COMMITTEE
SHOULD NOT INHIBIT THE WORK OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS IN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WHICH HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF
NEGOTIATING PARTICULAR ISSUES, NOR SHOULD IT SEEK TO
PRE-EMPT THEIR FUNCTION. NEVERTHELESS, THE ROLE OF THE
COMMITTEE IN SEEKING TO PROVIDE IMPETUS FOR RESOLVING
DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATIONS AND FOR ENCOURAGING THE
ONGOING WORK IN SUCH BODIES, AND FOR SERVING WHERE
APPROPRIATE AS A FORUM FOR FACILITATING AND EXPEDITING
AGREEMENT ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES, IS CLEAR.

A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT MATTER WHICH WILL
REQUIRE CONSIDERATION DURING THIS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
IS THE QUESTION OF THE WORK WHICH THE COMMITTEE MIGHT
UNDERTAKE IN THE COMING MONTHS. THE MEMBER COUNTRIES
OF THE GROUP OF 77 HAVE GIVEN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF
CONSIDERATION TO THE QUESTION OF THE SPECIFIC ISSUES
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WHICH MIGHT, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, COME BEFORE THE

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COMMITTEE, AND HAVE DEVELOPED PROPOSALS ABOUT THOSE URGENT MATTERS TO WHICH THE COMMITTEE MIGHT ADDRESS ITSELF IN ITS EARLY MEETINGS. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS KNOWN, AND HOPE THAT AGREEMENTS CAN BE REACHED IN RESPECT OF THESE QUESTIONS DURING THIS SESSION.

A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WORK WILL BE
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INVOLVED IN THE CARRYING OUT OF FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND IN THE PREPARATION FOR MEETINGS. ALL DELEGATIONS MUST GEAR THEMSELVES FOR THESE TASKS ALONG WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS. A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IS EXPECTED OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THIS MATTER. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT BY REASON OF THESE EFFORTS, THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO SHOW CONCRETE AND SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, AND FACILITATE AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AHEAD OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR THE YEAR 1980. WE HOPE THAT THIS WORK WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION, AND THE GROUP OF 77 WILL PLAY ITS FULL PART IN THESE EFFORTS AND IN THAT SPIRIT.

THANK YOU.

END TEXT. UNQUOTE.

YOUNG

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, SPEECHES, INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS
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Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 3582100
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: OVERVIEW MECHANISM: G-77 STATEMENT
TAGS: EGEN, PORO, XX, UN, G-77, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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